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SUBJECT: ECOWAS: AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

REF: RICE-TANDJA LETTER 29 JULY 2005

1. The Ambassador presented the letter from S to the Executive Secretary of ECOWAS designating him as her "Special Representative to ECOWAS" on October 3. The short ceremony was also attended by the DCM, DATT, and PolMilOff and by the Deputy Executive Secretary for Political Affairs, Defense, and Security and the Financial Controller from ECOWAS.

2. Following the presentation by the Ambassador, the Executive Secretary made a response accepting the Secretary's letter (text below, original will be forwarded to the Department by unclassified pouch) and there was a short photo session.

3. Text of statement by the Executive Secretary of ECOWAS:

Your Excellency,

I am informed by the United States Secretary of State, Her Excellency, Condoleeza Rice, to appoint you as the Permanent Representative of the Government of the United States of America to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

I wish to express my appreciation to the Government of the United States of America for this gesture which will, I am certain, not only reinforce the cooperation between the United States of America and ECOWAS but also further strengthen the ties between our respective peoples.

It is my sincere hope that your appointment will encourage the development of initiatives and realisation of projects aimed at accelerating the pace of integration in the sub-region, for the greater well-being of the West African peoples.

I trust that your tenure as Permanent Representative of the Government of the United States of America to ECOWAS will witness a further expansion and deepening of the United States of America and ECOWAS.

Permit me to congratulate you on your accreditation which, I am certain, is in recognition of your personal merit, and to assure you of my full cooperation and the readiness of my colleagues to assist you in any way which might contribute to the success of your mission.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Signed,
Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas
Executive Secretary

End text of statement.
CAMPBELL